

Business survey August 2017

Manufacturing industry, market services and construction

11 September 2017



- **In August industrial production expanded overall at a slightly less rapid pace than in July.** No large sector registered negative growth. The chemical, aeronautics and capital goods sectors showed robust growth, contrary to the automobile manufacturing sector.

Deliveries and new orders were slightly less robust than the previous month.

The capacity utilisation rate reached its highest level since May 2011.

Business leaders expect industrial production to register slightly lower growth in September.

- **Service sector activity continued to increase at a robust pace,** and was particularly strong in temporary work and several consultancy sectors.

Demand picked up more sharply.

Business leaders expect service sector activity to accelerate in September.

- **Construction sector activity increased strongly,** both in structural and finishing work.

Staff levels rose slightly.

Business leaders expect construction sector activity to grow at a less rapid pace in September.

The business sentiment indicator in manufacturing industry* stood at 104 in August, after 105 in July.

The business sentiment indicator in services* stood at 100 in August, after 99 in July.

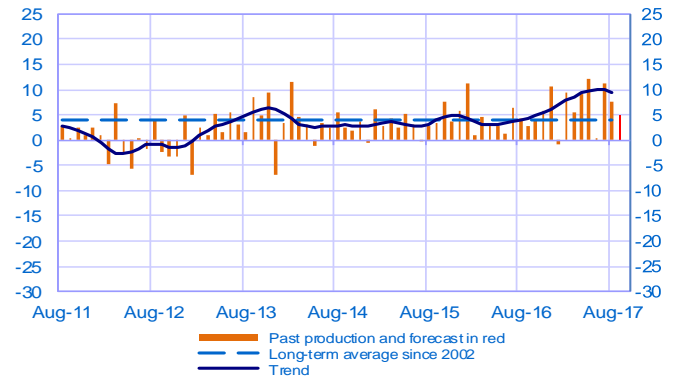
The business sentiment indicator in construction* stood at 103 in August, after 102 in July.

According to the monthly index of business activity (MIBA), **GDP is expected to increase by 0.5% in the third quarter of 2017** (second estimate, unchanged).

* Calculations are based on survey data, SA-WDA and smoothed over five months

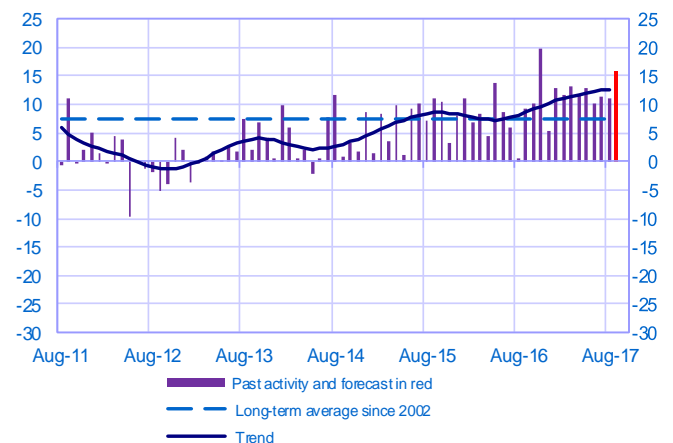
Opinion on the outlook for industrial production*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



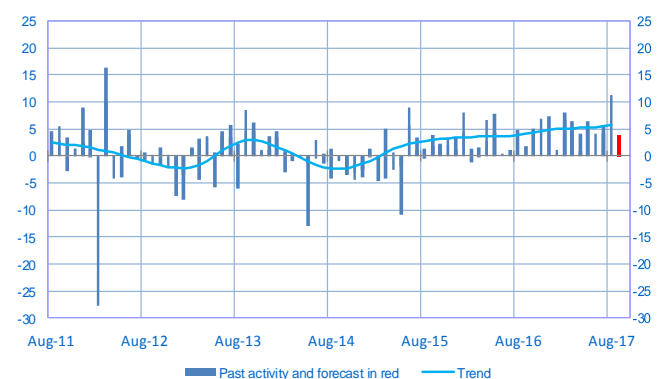
Opinion on the outlook for services activity*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Opinion on the outlook for construction activity*

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



* A positive (negative) balance of opinions corresponds to a rise (fall) in the evolution of activity

Manufacturing industry

	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Change												Forecast
Production	4	6	11	-1	9	6	9	12	0	11	8	5
Deliveries	7	6	10	5	11	5	12	10	1	13	8	
Total orders	6	10	9	9	11	7	12	9	7	12	8	
Staff	1	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	2	
Final goods prices	1	1	1	3	2	4	4	3	3	1	2	
Commodity prices	4	5	7	10	9	8	5	4	3	3	3	
Level												
Order books	12	16	16	16	16	18	17	20	20	20	20	
Inventories of finished goods	5	3	2	2	0	1	1	4	0	-1	-1	
Capacity utilisation rate	77.6	78.1	79.1	78.6	78.7	79.2	79.0	79.9	79.8	80.2	80.9	
Cash positions	14	14	12	14	14	15	13	15	15	14	13	

Services

	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Change												Forecast
Activity	10	20	5	13	12	13	12	13	10	11	11	16
Aggregate demand	10	20	7	12	12	13	12	12	10	13	16	
Prices	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	
Staff	7	7	7	9	7	6	6	7	6	4	6	
Level												
Cash positions	15	16	14	12	17	15	15	16	17	21	19	

Construction

	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Change												Forecast
Activity	5	7	7	1	8	6	1	6	4	4	11	4
Estimates prices	0	0	-1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	
Staff	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	
Level												
Order books	15	15	14	18	22	22	17	18	18	19	21	

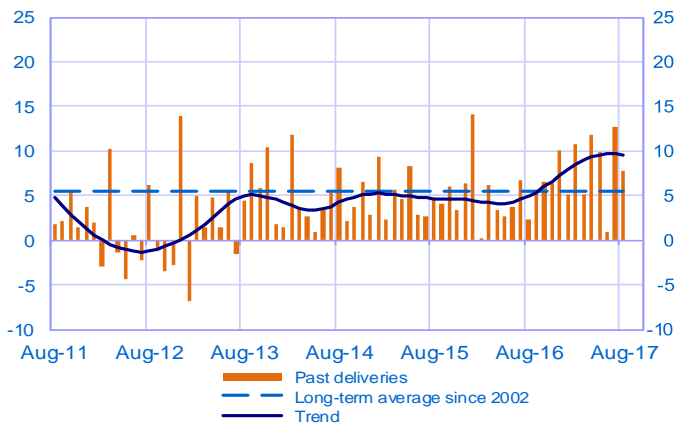
Notes:

- A positive (negative) balance of opinions corresponds to a rise (fall) in the evolution of activity.
- The last point corresponds to the business leaders' forecasts of future activity.
- The series are revised on a monthly basis. These revisions take into account additional gross data and the evolution of the seasonal and working-day adjustment depending on the latest available data. The business sentiment indicators of the previous months are revised accordingly.

Manufacturing industry

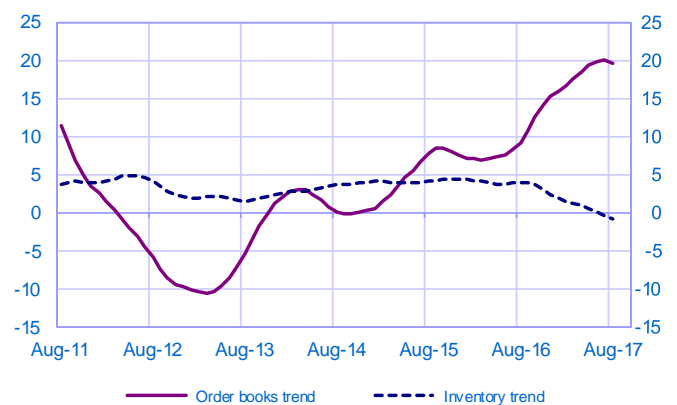
Changes in deliveries

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Inventories and order book level

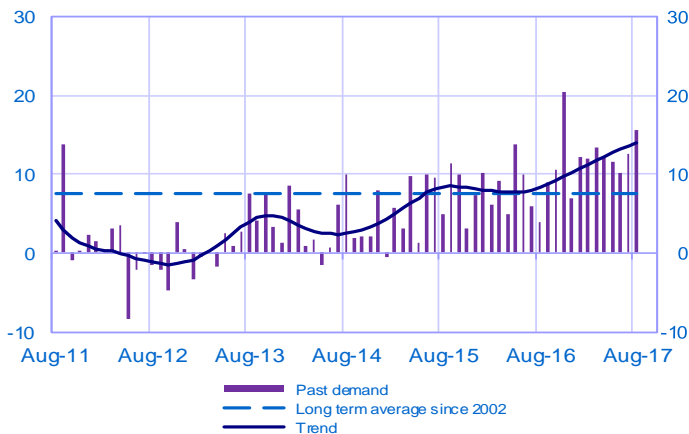
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Services

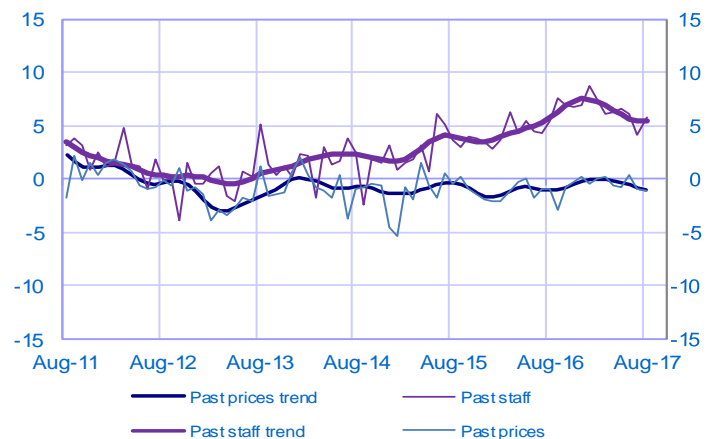
Changes in demand

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in prices and staff

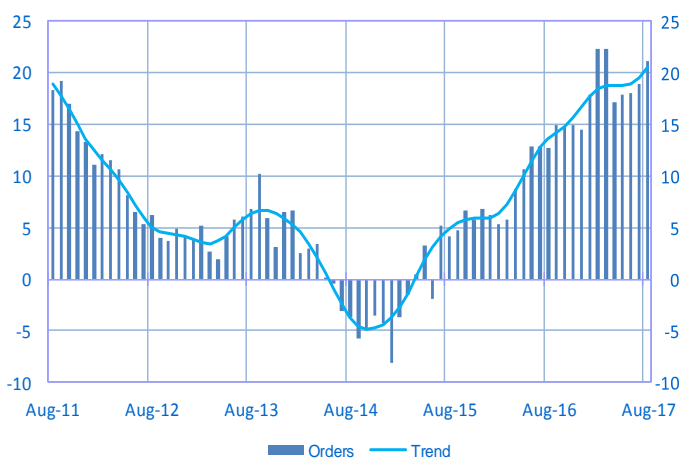
Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Construction

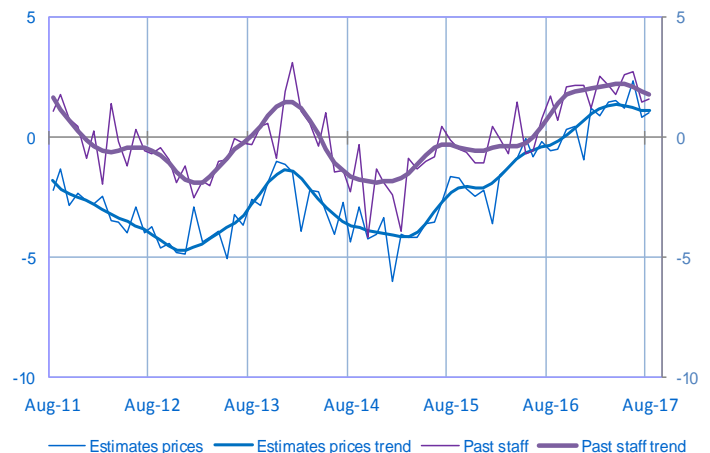
Order book level

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



Changes in estimates prices and staff

Balance of opinions, SA-WDA



For further details, see [sectoral level information](#), the [methodology](#), the [publications calendar](#), the [contacts](#) and all statistical time series published by the Banque de France can be accessed [WEBSTAT Banque de France](#)

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